

## SPIRIT CLUES FAIL IN ELWELL MURDER

Onija Experts Give Police 'Solutions' Which Do Not Solve.

**'DRY' AGENTS MAY HELP**  
Booklegging Arrests Are Expected to Produce New Evidence.

Even the denizens of the spirit world seem unable to agree upon a solution of the mystery surrounding the death of Joseph Elwell, which was murdered in his West Side home June 11.

Through official sources the news leaked out yesterday that both the police and the staff of the District Attorney have received to date upward of a score of letters purporting to come from persons claiming remarkable psychic powers or extreme intimacy with the ouija board, each of which pretends to give the solution of this most baffling of police mysteries.

Unfortunately no two of the writers agree on who killed Elwell, and the officials have come to conclude that the crime sleuths of the spirit world make mistakes just as human sleuths do.

Among the letters are eleven in which the writers base their theories upon the result of consultations with ouija boards. One declares that ouija told him or her that Elwell was slain by "a young woman." Another says he was slain by a "young man." One accuses "a young mother" of having committed the deed. One calls the case a suicide. Other ouija boards have been more specific and have furnished names. In fact half a dozen of the dead man's acquaintances are specifically accused of the murder in these communications.

According to John T. Dooling, Assistant District Attorney, who has been working continuously in an effort to clear up the mystery, the letters offering a solution continue to pour into the prosecutor's office day after day, and in some instances the same person has written several communications suggesting courses of investigation. Each seems positive that his or her theory is correct.

With the investigation into the cause of Elwell's death entering upon its second month yesterday neither the police nor District Attorney's office were able to report progress, although there were hints from both branches that an arrest "may not be far distant."

The homicide squad, under the direction of Capt. Arthur Carter, has been working upon several clues which were unknown to the members of the District Attorney's staff, and there is anxiety in each department to test the other should beat it to a solution of the mystery.

The proposed arrests in connection with "booklegging" transactions in which certain associates of Elwell were engaged are expected within the next few days, and it is probable that evidence which has been gathered by the local force of prohibition enforcement agents will be laid before the Federal Grand Jury before the end of the week.

## CHANGES MADE IN ROCKEFELLER STAFF

Appointments and Promotions Are Announced.

Seventeen new appointments and several promotions have been announced by the board of scientific directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The election of Dr. Winthrop J. V. Osterhout as a member of the board to succeed the late Dr. Theodore C. Janeway was also announced.

Following are the promotions: Dr. Alfred E. Cohn, associate member in medicine, has been made a member; Dr. Peyton Rous, associate member in pathology, has been made a member; Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke, associate member in chemistry, has been made a member; Dr. Francis G. Blake, associate in medicine, has been made an associate member; Dr. John H. Northrup, associate in experimental biology, has been made an associate member; Dr. James H. Austin, an assistant in medicine, has been made an associate; Dr. Harry W. Graybill, an assistant in the department of animal pathology, has been made an associate; Miss Helen L. Fales has been made an associate in chemistry; Dr. Philip D. McMaster in pathology and bacteriology and Miss Marion L. Orcutt in animal pathology.

The following new appointments were announced: Dr. Harry Clark, associate member of pathology and bacteriology; Dr. Pierre L. du Noy, associate member in experimental surgery; Dr. Paul H. de Kruif, associate in pathology and bacteriology; Dr. Lloyd D. Felton, associate in pathology and bacteriology; Dr. Rudolph W. Glaser, associate in the department of animal pathology; Dr. Carl A. Elger, assistant in medicine; Dr. Ralph H. Boots, assistant in medicine; Dr. Louis A. Mikoska, assistant in chemistry; Dr. Charles P. Miller, Jr., assistant in medicine; Dr. Eugene V. Powell, assistant in X-ray; Dr. Leslie T. Webster, assistant in pathology and bacteriology; Dr. Goranway Wright, Miss Katherine M. Dougherty, Dr. Andre L. Gratia and Dr. Thomas J. Le Blanc, fellows in pathology and bacteriology, and Henry S. Simms, fellow in chemistry.

## POLICE UNABLE TO FIND BLAKE CRAFT

Believe It Was One McDermott Salvaged and Lost.

The search for the body of James H. Blake and the skiff in which he disappeared so mysteriously from a Clason Point shipyard ten days ago yielded nothing yesterday. Two police launches spent the entire day of Sunday Bay, Bowers Bay and the vicinity of Rikers Island seeking signs of the skiff, which they believe must have been wrecked in the breaker's death but neither a splinter nor a shred of clothing which would give a clue and reward their effort at right.

The police believe that the engine which Peter McDermott found in a small boat on the shore of North Beach one week ago Saturday is the one which Mr. Blake sought to have installed in his boat when he left the yard of the Davin Boat and Shipbuilding Corporation on the evening of July 2. McDermott's description of the boat coincides so well with what is known of the Blake craft that the police are reasonably sure it was Mr. Blake's boat which McDermott salvaged and later lost.

Information which the police have adds strength to the theory that in some manner there was a blaze on the small craft and in trying to extinguish it, or perhaps save himself from burning, Mr. Blake fell or jumped overboard and was drowned. Members of the marine division who are familiar with the recovery of the bodies of drowned persons say that the body should rise to the surface early this week if Mr. Blake met his death in the manner they believe he did.

## BURGLAR'S ATTEMPT FOILED BY NURSE

Chases Man She Saw Leaving House—Causes Arrest.

Edward Haslitt, 45 years old, of 149 Forsythe street, was held yesterday without bail by Magistrate Fish in the Flatbush Court on a charge of attempted burglary. He is charged with having attempted to rob the home of Dr. A. M. Quinn at 14 Seventh avenue, in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn.

The police say that Haslitt walked to the side entrance of the house and went into the cellar by way of the coal chute. He evidently heard Miss Anna Coleman, a trained nurse, on the floor above him, for he soon climbed back the same way he entered. Miss Coleman says he left the chute and started down the street. Accompanied by several neighbors she began the chase, and was joined by Patrolman Daly of the Bergen street station. Daily found Haslitt at the corner of First and Carlton avenue and placed him under arrest.

Haslitt, the police say, has a record of burglaries. He carried a note, in which was written the address of Dr. Quinn. Neighbors said that earlier in the day he visited the house, rang the bell and, receiving no answer, evidently decided that nobody was at home and that it would be safe to make a later attempt.

## CHILLED BEEF TO BE SENT TO BELGIUM

Ship Almost Ready for Cargo to Cut Living Cost.

The Lloyd Royal Belge bought, several months ago, the American transport ship, the *McClellan*, which is a refrigerating ship, and simultaneously the Belgian Government acquired thousands of tons of chilled beef. It was the intention of the Belgian line to help cut the cost of living in Belgium by taking the beef there in the *McClellan*, which was renamed the *Hastler* after she had made her first trip to Antwerp.

It was found that the refrigerating machinery could not be repaired in Belgium because it was purely of American construction and essential parts could be obtained only in America. The *Hastler* is now at Pier 3, Army Base, Brooklyn, nearly ready to take aboard beef for the Belgians.

Capt. Van de Velde said yesterday that the best cuts of beef in Belgium cost seven francs a pound, equivalent to about a dollar here, he said. "My Government," the skipper added, "thinks this is too much for beef. The people cannot afford to pay it, so we are going to help try to cut the cost. We shall be able to sell American chilled beef for five francs a pound, possibly less, and this will bring the price down."

President Arthur Brys of the Lloyd Royal Belge, by arrangement with the Belgian Government, has set aside the regular freight schedule and the beef will cross the sea at cost. If the experiment is successful two more refrigerating ships now owned by the United States will be added to the Belgian fleet and the Belgian holdings of cold storage beef will be cleaned out.

## RAPS HOARDING AS AID TO RADICALISM

J. H. Tregoe Says Put All Surplus in Bank.

J. H. Tregoe, secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Credit Men, setting forth thrift as a real means of salvation to the country for effectiveness against radicalism, said yesterday that people ought to carry less pocket money, putting it in banks instead.

"The Federal Reserve system has given us machinery for applying our legitimate requirements," he said, "but it is highly desirable that the issue of Federal reserve notes should not go beyond the present point. That volume should, in fact, be reduced."

"The hoarding of currency is to be especially condemned. There is a pronounced tendency to hoard among foreign born workers, whose earnings today are in excess of anything they have enjoyed before. Our efforts should be to establish the confidence of these people in our various classes of savings institutions and to get into circulation all this large amount of currency now kept in hiding."

Mr. Tregoe said thrift is not a matter of sentiment or of personal duty, but is the best assurance of prosperity and sound national life.

## SHOTS FIRED AS COPS FIGHT 'CRAPS' GANG

Two Arrested After Reserves Arrive.

Detective Walter Hogan and Reserve Patrolmen Harry Cox and Thomas Boyle of the West Forty-seventh street station came on fifteen men shooting craps in front of 322 West Fifty-second street yesterday afternoon. Instead of running, the men showed fight. Cox grabbed one of them and put him under arrest. The others began throwing bricks and stones, one of which struck Cox in the back.

Cox fired his revolver, but the men knocked him down and released the prisoner. Hogan pursued one of the men into Eighth avenue, but failed to catch him. Reserves from the West Forty-seventh street station finally came, but the craps shooters had gone. Later Nick Travels of 435 Eighth street, West New York, N. J., and John O'Connell of 415 West Fifth street were arrested. Travels was identified by Cox as the man who had thrown the brick which hit him, and he was charged with felonious assault. O'Connell was charged with disorderly conduct.

## INVESTIGATE ANTHRAX DEATH In Harlem.

Authorities Seek Source of Disease in Harlem.

Tony Gerdo, 28 years old, a bricklayer, died yesterday of anthrax in Harlem Hospital. He went to the hospital July 6. The case will be investigated to determine if possible where the disease was contracted.

Gerdo lived at 320 East 109th street.

## HOUSING SHORTAGE LAID TO LOCKWOOD

Real Estate Board Secretary Says New Rent Laws Are Too Restrictive.

State Senator Charles C. Lockwood of Brooklyn, whose committee fathered the rent laws in the last Legislature, is criticized as responsible for the housing shortage in a statement issued yesterday by Richard O. Chittick, executive secretary of the Real Estate Board of New York. The board opposed the passage of the anti-rent profiteering laws and has championed for two years a plan to exempt mortgage interest from the income tax law.

"The Real Estate Board warned Senator Lockwood and the entire State Legislature that these rent bills would have exactly the effect they are having (increasing the housing shortage); that by including all property owners and landlords as 'rent profiteers' and placing sweeping restrictions upon control of residential property the Legislature would be instrumental in aggravating the housing shortage," the statement says.

Mr. Chittick said the rent laws are too restrictive, and makes a new plea for exempting mortgage interest. He declares a bill exempting interest up to \$40,000 in principal failed in the last Legislature because it was limited to the comparatively small amount.

"If the Legislature, either at a special session or at the next session, fails to grant total exemption, instead of an exemption up to \$40,000, it will merely be scratching the surface and making it easy for those who deal in large mortgages of a kind that can be split into smaller ownership, to control the replacement of mortgage money upon open mortgages and mortgages coming due."

The statement predicts an even more critical housing situation in October and says that an analysis of construction figures made by the F. W. Dodge Company shows an increase in the amount to be spent for industrial construction, but a sharp contraction in the amount to be spent for residential use.

According to Leo Kenneth Mayer, chief counsel for the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, landlords are still profiteering despite the new laws. Landlords employ three dodges to evade the law, he says. These are:

To notify tenants their leases will not be renewed unless they are willing to pay exorbitant rentals. If they refuse to meet this increase the tenants are then ousted by law.

To notify tenants that the premises have been sold on the cooperative plan, but offer to sell them the apartment if they will pay the exorbitant sum asked.

To show a higher valuation on their property by intertransfer of property through alleged sales and thus be able to extract a higher rental.

## URGES LEGISLATION FOR CITY HOUSING

Asks for Session to Permit Municipal Building.

Henry H. Curran, President of the Borough of Manhattan, has written to

Gov. Alfred E. Smith asking him to call a special session of the Legislature this summer for the purpose of enacting legislation to relieve the housing shortage in New York city.

Mr. Curran asks particularly that the Legislature adopt an amendment to the Constitution empowering the city of New York to build municipally owned apartment houses on property the city already possesses and rent such apartments to its citizens.

"If a special session of the Legislature should act upon such an amendment it would come before the next Legislature for final consideration and could be decided at the polls not later than November, 1921," Mr. Curran explained in making public his letter yesterday.

"But if the question is not taken up until the next Legislature, final action would have to be delayed until a new session is elected. The people in that case would not be able to vote upon it before November, 1923."

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the Governor that he had introduced in the Board of Estimate a resolution for the appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the construction of dwellings on city owned real estate, but the Corporation Counsel had ruled that the city was powerless to embark upon such a venture without specific authorization by a constitutional amendment.

"The constitutional amendment is not the only method of relieving an extremely critical situation," the Borough President added. "It is just one emergency measure, to be confined strictly to the duration of the emergency. There are many other helpful measures which the Legislature in special session can and should consider."

Citizens Move Some Freight.

Col. Frederic A. Molitor of the Citizens Transportation Committee reported yesterday that 1,652,000 pounds of freight were moved in "open" trucks operated by the committee during the week ended Saturday.

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